

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 21, with the following amended paragraph:

Thus generally, an add/drop node is intended to be connected in an optical WDM-network. The network has two parallel fiber paths allowing light of a plurality of wavelength channels to propagate in opposite directions. The add/drop node comprises two add/drop modules for each of the channels. All the modules are identically constructed and most of their connections are very similar to each other allowing a simple mounting and connection of the components of the node and also a simple rearrangement for changing wavelength channels and for adding/deleting wavelength channels used in the network. Each module comprises an add device for adding light to a first one of the paths and a drop device for deflecting a portion of light from a second one of the paths. The add device and the drop device of a module are enclosed by **[comprises]** a housing[e], the housing[e] of the modules being placed in a single row, at the sides of each other and for instance mounted in a rack. A first fixed connector is attached to the housing[e] of a module for connection in the first path and to **[a]** an optical fiber which extends freely from the housing[e] and has a first free connector at its free end to be attached to the fixed connector of a neighbouring add/drop module for continuing the first path through the considered add/drop module to the neighbouring module. In the same way a second fixed connector is attached to the housing[e] for connection in the second path and to a second optical fiber which extends freely from the house and has a second free connector at its free end to be attached to the fixed second connector of a neighbouring add/ drop module for continuing the second path through the considered add/drop module to the neighbouring module.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 30, with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 3 is a view from the side of the inside of a housing[e] of an add/drop module,

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 36, with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 7 is a perspective view showing the inside of a housing[e] of an add/drop module.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 3, with the following amended paragraph:

The network includes a hub node 2 and in the embodiment shown four client nodes 3, called Client 1, 2, 3 and 4, the nodes being connected to the two basic fiber paths 1e, 1w for adding and dropping light from the fibers. A client node n receives and transmits information in a narrow wavelength band, also called channel, around a single wavelength λ_n , $n = 1, 2, \dots$. The hub node 2 can receive and transmit information in all channels, i.e., on all wavelengths λ_n , $n = 1, 2, \dots$. For each client node 3, the hub node 2 is connected to an electrical client portion 5. Such an electrical client portion 5 comprises an electrooptic converter or optical transmitter 7 converting electrical signals to optical signals and an optoelectric converter or optical receiver 9 for receiving optical signals converting the received signals to electrical signals. The electrical client portion 5 is through optical fibers connected to an optical client portion 11 in the hub node 2. The optical client portion 11 has optical connectors for receiving the optical fibers extending from the respective electrical client portion.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 33, with the following amended paragraph:

Furthermore the hub node 2 includes a plurality of add/drop modules 231, 23r one pair of such add/drop modules being provided for each client node 3 in the network. In such a pair one module 231 is adapted to transmit in a left direction from the hub node and to receive from the same left direction. The other module 23r of a pair is adapted to transmit in and to receive from the right direction from the hub node. Each add/drop module is connected in the two ring-shaped fiber paths 1e, 1w of the network. The [A] left add/drop module 231 comprises an [one] add device 251 connected in the fiber ring path 1w and an [one] drop device 271 connected in the other fiber ring path 1e. The add device 251 is, through fiber sections [pieces], a 50/50 splitting coupler 29 (only one is shown in the drawing) and the respective connector connected to the transmitter 15 in the optical client portion 11 for the appropriate client node. The drop device

271₁ is through a fiber and the respective connector₁ connected to the receiver 17e in the optical client portion 11 for the same client node.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 7, with the following amended paragraph:

In the same way, the right add/drop module 23r in the pair comprises an **[one]** add device 25r connected in the fiber ring path 1e and an **[one]** drop device 27r connected in the other fiber ring path 1w. The add device 25r is, through fiber sections **[pieces]**, a **[the]** respective splitting coupler 29 and the respective connector₁ connected to the transmitter 15 in the optical client portion 11 for the client node. The drop device 27r is, through a fiber and the respective connector₁ connected to the receiver 17w in the optical client portion 11 for the client node.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 14, with the following amended paragraph:

The add devices 25l, 25r contain some coupling or combining element and, if required, a notch filter blocking light of the wavelength band or channel for which the add/drop module is designed. The optional filter will then stop only light of the **[said]** wavelength band propagating in the respective fiber ring path 1w, 1e before light of the same wavelength band is added in the combining element. The drop devices 27l, 27r contain in the same way some splitting and filtering element for tapping off only light of the wavelength band or channel for which the add/drop module is designed.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 21, with the following amended paragraph:

[It appears that all] All add/drop nodes 23l, 23r have the same basic design and functions and can thus all be given the same physical shape as **[will be]** discussed hereinafter.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 23, with the following amended paragraph:

The two fiber ring paths 1e, 1w are connected to the hub node 2 on a left side of the hub node and on a right side of the node. On **[At]** each such side a monitor module 31l, 31r can be arranged which is thus connected in the two ring paths. The **[A]** monitor module 31l, 31r comprises an add coupler 33l, 33r for

adding, e.g., some control signal and a tap 35l, 35r for tapping off some small portion of the incoming light power[,] (e.g., 1%).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 28, with the following amended paragraph:

The schematic diagram of Fig. 2 illustrates the connections **[functions]** of the **[an]** add/drop modules 23l, 23r. Each **[The]** module comprises a housing[e] **[indicated]** at 41. Light from one (1e) of two ring paths of the network enters the module at a connector 43 attached to a fiber section **[piece]** 45 extending loosely outside the housing[e] 41. The fiber section **[piece]** 45 has a thick protective sleeve which extends **[and is]** inside the housing[e] to a weld section **[at]** 47 **[welded to]** which splices an end of an optical fiber 49 having a standard thin protective sleeve to the fiber section 45. The optical fiber section **[piece]** 49 is, at its opposite end, connected to one of the two inputs of the add device 25l, 25r. The output of the add device is connected to a fiber section **[piece]** 51, which in turn is connected to a connector 53 attached to the housing[e] 41. The connector 53 should be connected in the same ring path 1e as the input connector 43. The other input of the add device is, through a fiber section **[piece]** 55, connected to a connector 57 which is attached to the housing[e] 41. The connector 43 thus receives light from the ring path 1e to **[make it continue to]** the fiber 45, through the weld 47, the fiber section **[piece]** 49, the add device 25l, 25r, the fiber section **[piece]** 51 and to the connector 53. The output connector 53 lets the light continue along the ring path 1e. Light from an optical client portion 11 enters the module at the connector 57, continues through the fiber 55 to the add device 25l, 25r, in which the light is added to that propagating along the ring path 1e.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 5, with the following amended paragraph:

Furthermore, in the module 23l, 23r there is a set of connected fiber sections **[pieces]**, which is parallel to that described and is connected in the other ring path 1w of the network, but in which instead of the add device 25r, 25l, the drop device 27l, 27r is connected. Thus a connector 63 is to be connected to the other ring path and is attached to an end of a well-protected fiber section **[piece]** 65 extending partly outside the housing[e] 41;[,] the other end being the fiber section 65 connected through a weld section 67 to a standard fiber section piece 69. This fiber section **[piece]** is in turn connected to one of the two outputs of the

drop device 27l, 27r. The input of the drop device is connected to a fiber section [piece] 71 which receives light from a connector 73 attached to the housing[e] 41. The connector 73 should be connected in the respective ring path 1w. The other output of the drop device 27l, 27r is connected to an end of a fiber section [piece] 75 which has its other end connected to a connector 77 attached to the housing[e] 41. This connector 77 is, through a fiber, attached to a respective receiver 17w (17e) in the optical client portion 11. Light from the ring path 1w enters the module at the connector 73, continues through the fiber 71, the drop device 27l, 27r, the fiber 69, the weld section 67, the thick fiber 65 to the loose connector 63, which in turn is connected in the respective ring path 1w of the network. Some light of a specific wavelength band is tapped off in the drop device 27l, 27r and continues through the fiber 75 to the connector 77 and therefrom to the respective optical client portion 11.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 23, with the following amended paragraph:

The physical layout of the interior of an add/drop module housing[e] 41 is shown in the side view of Fig. 3. The module housing[e] 41 comprises a substantially flat portion from which various walls stand out. The walls all have the same height and connect to a basically flat lid[,] (not shown)[,] which is mounted over the housing[e] 41. The walls form two circular winding cores 81 having a sufficiently large diameter, e.g. about 50 mm, allowing that fibers can be wound around them and not being subjected to too small bending radii (too severe [large] curvatures). The two winding cores 81 are placed at some distance from [of] each other to allow[ing that] the fibers to [can] pass therebetween. By arranging two such cores the fiber sections [pieces] used can be allowed to have some extra length allowing them to be comfortably handled and to again be spliced to the devices in the case of fiber breaks or bad splices. Additionally, [and also,] the direction of the fiber sections [pieces] at the places where they are connected to the devices can be selected to avoid [be the proper one not using too small] bends which are too small, by placing the fibers, for instance, in a configuration similar to the figure eight around the two cores 81. Inside the walls forming the winding cores through-holes 83 may be arranged for an easy handling of the module housing[e]. The add devices 25l, 25r and the drop devices 27l, 27r can be attached between outstanding walls 85 at the top of the housing[e].

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 39, with the following amended paragraph:

At the lower edge of the housing[e] 41 devices are provided for attaching the housing[e] to a rack, the attaching devices comprising a notch 87 at the rear side and a snap device 89 at the front side. A channel 91 is formed at the front top side of the house 41 to allow fibers connecting the module to the associated optical client portion to be held therein.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 4, with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 4 is a front view of the add/drop modules 23l, 23r and the monitor modules 31l, 31r mounted in a rack, the loosely extending fiber pieces 45, 65 not being visible in this figure. By comparing Fig. 4 to Fig. 1 it is seen that the connection of all left add/drop modules 23l is as indicated in Fig. 3, the extending fiber sections [pieces] 45, 65 being inserted in the mating connectors 53, 73 in the adjacent module at the left side of the respective module. This connection is illustrated in the schematic view of Fig. 6[.]; see also Fig. 5. Thus, in Fig. 5 the same basic connection as in Fig. 1 is illustrated, where, in the right modules 23r the add devices and the drop devices have changed places with each other. Then a cross coupling must be made between the group of left modules 23l and the group of right modules 23r and between the right group and the right monitor module 31r as compared to the straight schematic connection of modules shown in Fig. 1.

The same connection of the modules is illustrated in Fig. 6 in which the connections between the add/drop modules using loosely extending fiber [pieces] sections 45, 65 is shown. From this figure it appears clearly that all add/drop modules 23l, 23r can have an identical construction, only the tapping-off devices and filters being specific [special] to the channel for which the respective module is designed. The cross coupling is made in the middle of the assembly of add/drop modules, between the left and right modules. Such a cross connection can be made by connecting the loose fiber sections [pieces] 101 having optical connectors at each end in a cross configuration or a particular cross connecting module can be used. Such a module has the same exterior design as the other modules but has inside just the optical fibers connected cross-wise.

In Fig. 4 a multitude of add/drop modules 23l, 23r are illustrated. However, only a portion of the add/drop modules may be active ones, constructed

as described above. At the side of the active modules dummy modules are inserted having the same exterior layout but without the connectors and the loosely extending fibers. The dummy modules are used for just filling up the space between the active modules and the monitor modules.